



On the Bayou

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Message from the Director

Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar

As we continue to shelter in place and practice social distancing, let us take this opportunity to make the most of telework: take the time to do things that will improve your skill set; think about how you can do your job better. For scientists, look up old data and publications that may still have meaning and relevance for putting together manuscripts. Telework presents us with a different work pace, and gives us a chance to do these things we usually do not get to do when we stay so busy in our normal day to day basis.

It is not certain when we will return back to work. The timing will depend on the stay at home orders being lifted locally as well as when all the preparations are done to bring the staff back safely. This will most likely have to be done in phases.

I am sure there are some who are eager to get back to work, while others may not be sure of how safely they can be at work. All these issues will be addressed by USDA and our agency as we safely bring our staff back to work. Meeting our milestones is important, but not as important as the safety of all our employees. For this reason, our agency remains in max telework status.

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Earth Day Celebration

Submitted by: Cathy Mason

SRRC participates in Earth Day Ecochallenge

Due to the corona virus pandemic, we had to postpone our planned activities for Earth Day 2020. Our committee searched for viable substitutions, and Suhad Wojkowski suggested that we try the Earth Day Ecochallenge.org from Portland Oregon.

Earth Day Ecochallenge is a 30-day environmental and social engagement program. From April 1 - April 30, participants select actions to take that align with individual values and make a 30-day commitment to complete those actions, all the while practicing and reinforcing good habits. For every completed action, participants earn points and create impact. Individuals' points contribute to the team's total points, and the impact contributes to our collective impact. For over 27 years, Ecochallenge.org has provided ways for all of us to connect the dots between our actions, our impact, and our will to create significant environmental + social change. The organization shows how our collective behavior connects with the reality of a better shared future.

The committee tested the site, and Hans Wientjes, from our IT department, checked out the site for any potential problems. When we had the all clear, Stephanie Gross set up a USDA SRRC team, and we sent invitations to all employees at SRRC.

The results were amazing! There were 477 organizations throughout the country that participated in the challenge. We had 61 team members, and over the month of April we accrued a total of 10972 points. That total earned us a rating of #33 overall!

The combined team impact showed:

- ◆ 339 disposable cups, 71 plastic straws and 542 plastic bottles **not** sent to the landfill
- ◆ 12650 minutes **not** spent in front of a television or computer screen; 12770 minutes spent outdoors
- ◆ 122 miles traveled by foot/not traveled by car; 3087 pounds of CO₂ saved
- ◆ 18 pounds of food waste prevented; 95 pounds of waste composted
- ◆ 220 vegan or vegetarian meals consumed
- ◆ 1147 gallons of water saved; 715 pieces of litter picked up; 1 tree planted; 16 lightbulbs replaced with eco-friendly alternatives
- ◆ 2 documentaries watched; 1063 minutes spent learning about environmental problems; 405 conversations with people (socially distant)

Way to go, Team! Thanks to the Earth Day Committee for their efforts to find a substitute to our planned activities. Hopefully this past month has helped us all to learn new habits, so that as we move forward, we will continue to protect our environment.



Administrative Professionals Day

Submitted by: Deepak Bhatnagar

We are celebrating Administrative Professionals Day virtually this year. I express my sincere gratitude for all that the SRRC Office Professionals do for us and the Agency on a daily basis. We could not survive without the excellent work of our Administrative Professionals; and SRRC is blessed with the best !!

Under different circumstances, we would have a celebration. For now, imagine (virtually) that we are having cake and ice cream. But rest assured that as soon as we can safely do it, we will celebrate this occasion. For now, please accept our thanks.

Thank you to our dedicated Administrative Support staff:

Janell Becker	Suzanne Martin
Trinia Bax	Dawn Reed
Shannon Beltz	Valerie Reed
Olga Carias	Melissa Santos
Jamie Howell	Suhad Wojkowski
Matt King	Everette Woods
Althea Lane	

A Step Back in Time at SRRC

Submitted by: Christine Sickler



July 1, 1948: Florence Roberts.
Entering cotton sample from bale in a two color mixed dye bath to differentially dye the mature and immature fibers.
Cotton Chemical Finishing Division, SRRL

February 23, 1943: Physical testing laboratory.
Cotton Processing Research Division, SRRL



Safety Corner

Submitted by: Shannon Beltz

In 2014, the SRRC Women's History Committee presented a panel discussion featuring local heroes of public service. We invited a police officer, a firefighter, a military representative, and an emergency room physician to speak about their work and their experience as a woman in these fields.

The physician was **Dr. Jennifer Avegno**, who works at University Medical Center Emergency. You may have seen Dr. Avegno recently, as since 2018 she has been serving as the Director of the New Orleans Department of Health. She has been seen on many press conferences helping to deliver guidance to New Orleanians during the COVID-19 pandemic.



For more information, check out:

<https://nola.gov/mayor/news/july-2018/mayor-cantrell-names-dr-jennifer-avegno-director/>

Did You Know?

Salmonella has been called ‘the most ubiquitous pathogen in nature.’ According to a USDA study, about a quarter of all chicken pieces sold in stores are contaminated with salmonella.

Salmonella was named for Daniel Salmon, a USDA scientist, though it was actually discovered by his assistant **Theobald Smith**, a forgotten hero of medical history. Smith, born in 1859, was the son of German immigrants in upstate New York and grew up speaking German. Although he was not been able to go to Europe to study with men like Pasteur, Koch, or Virchow, he could read and speak German and was able to study the papers of these masters and teach himself. He taught himself Koch’s methods for culturing bacteria and was able to isolate salmonella in 1885. Daniel Salmon was head of the Bureau of Animal Industry at the USDA and was primarily an administrator, but the convention of the day was to list the bureau head as lead author on departmental papers, and that was the name that got attached to the microbe.

Smith was also robbed of credit for the discovery of the infectious protozoa Babesia, wrongly named for a Romanian bacteriologist, Victor Babes. In a long and distinguished career, Smith also discovered that insects can transmit disease, representing one of the fundamental steps forward that altered the entire course of medical science and public health. It presaged the discovery in the next few years of the insect transmission of trypanosomiasis of cattle in 1895 by David Bruce, malaria in 1897 by Ronald Ross, yellow fever in 1900 by Walter Reed and his colleagues, and typhus in 1909 by Charles Nicolle. Smith also proved that TB could jump from animals to humans, disproving Koch. It was thanks to this discovery that pasteurization of milk became a standard practice.

Among Smith’s many fundamental contributions to immunology, the most important was demonstrating that animals develop hypersensitivity to bacteria upon repeated injections. What is now called anaphylaxis was long known as the “Theobald Smith phenomenon.”

Smith was considered one of the most notable figures in American medicine during what was the golden age of bacteriology and yet is almost completely forgotten.

While We Telework

Submitted by: Dawn Reed

With our staff staying home to comply with health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, some of these recommendations may help when you start feeling cooped up:

- **Stay Physically Healthy** - It's too easy right now to hang out on the couch and binge watch your favorite shows, but it's important to keep our bodies and minds in shape. With this recommended cardio routine you can get started right away, no equipment necessary.

<https://www.self.com/gallery/no-equipment-cardio-workout>

- **Stay Mentally Healthy** - These are scary times. In this uncertainty, anxiety can run rampant and mental health can take a toll. It's important to take care of our bodies as well as our minds, and to know resources are out there to help us get through it. Meditation can help you relax, clear your mind, relieve some anxiety, and stay grounded throughout your day. Here is a guided meditation to help you get started.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jyy0ra2WcQQ>

- ◇ Reach out to a friend and talk it out. Write down your thoughts and feelings in a journal.
- ◇ Want some professional help? Call the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#), 1-800-985-5990, a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.
- **Spend more time on a hobby you love** - Hobbies are always important—they give us time to focus on ourselves and unwind—but finding ways to infuse our lives with novelty and variety is key right now. Pick something that sounds genuinely fun, relaxing, distracting, or whatever you need it to be.
- **Learn a whole new skill** - By no means should you put pressure on yourself to be hyper productive during a literal pandemic, but for some taking on a new challenger is a welcome distraction. Now could be the perfect time to learn a new language, pick up a pen and paper and start drawing or writing, learning to code and even cooking! YouTube is gem for tutorials of all kinds. Time to try something new!
- **Stay digitally social** - Maintaining social connections now is more important than ever. Make some time to pick up and call friends and family, chances are they are feeling cooped up as well and a call would be greatly appreciated. Facetime, Skype, Zoom all offer video chat for free, but a simple call or text will do as well!
- **Set “Zero Coronavirus Talk/News” Boundaries** - Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting and create an echo chamber of bad news that only reinforces anxiety.
- **Last but not least, go easy on yourself**

Death of Former SRRC Employees

Sarah Elizabeth Lingle

Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Lingle, 64, of Salem, OR passed away on April 17, 2020 at Providence Benedictine Nursing Center in Mt. Angel, OR. She had lived fully and courageously with cancer for more than a decade. Sarah was born on July 22, 1955 to John Clayton Lingle and Dorothy Adelaide (DuBois) Lingle in Davis, California. She married Thomas Pratt Washington in McAllen, TX on May 20, 1989. Her parents and husband preceded her in death.

Sarah grew up in Modesto, CA. She graduated from the University of California at Davis in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in genetics, then went on to earn a master's in agronomy from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a PhD in agronomy from Washington State University. She worked as a plant scientist for the USDA Agricultural Research Service from 1984 to 2011, first in Weslaco, TX and then in New Orleans, LA. She specialized in sugarcane and sorghum research and published numerous articles in scientific journals. Upon retirement, Sarah chose Salem, OR as her new home.

Throughout her life Sarah was both a devoted scientist and a devout Episcopalian. She joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church when she moved to Salem and was warmly welcomed into their faith community. She sang in the choir and participated in numerous other church activities. Sarah had a very active mind and wide-ranging interests. She traveled extensively, was a voracious reader, loved gardening and bird watching, adored her cats, kept up with a host of Facebook friends, and was writing her first novel. Sarah was kind, generous, resilient, brave, and an inspiration to the many people who knew and loved her.

Norman Victor Lovegren

Norman Victor Lovegren passed away early on Good Friday, April 10, 2020 at the age of 96. Beloved husband of the late Viola May Sturgeon Lovegren. Loving father of Bonnie Evans (Don), the late Ruth Womack (Bob), Lee Lovegren (Hope), John Lovegren (Dan) and Dr. Edith Lovegren (Lu). Great-grandfather of twenty-two.



Norman Lovegren was an active member of the First Baptist Church for over 50 years, including many years serving as a deacon, teaching Sunday School, and singing in the choir. Born to missionary parents in southwestern China, he later served in the U.S. Army in World War II on Okinawa, earning a Purple Heart. Shortly after marriage, a move to New Orleans began a 40+ year career as a research chemist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His creation of new agricultural seed-oil extraction processes earned him multiple patents.

Additionally, he and five other fellow chemists built one another's houses in their spare time. He loved discovery and nature. Numerous family camping vacations embraced most of the "lower 48" states, the national parks, and visits to a wide-spread geography of extended family. His ever-inquisitive mind resulted in the accumulation of over 6000 books and subscriptions to 30+ magazines on a wide variety of topics. His children were blessed to live in a home where their father and mother loved each other, and learning was always encouraged. His wisdom, calm stability, perseverance, generosity, and commitment to his faith will be missed.

Death of Former SRRC Employees (cont.)

Melvin Bierria

Melvin Bierria was born on November 12, 1948 in New Orleans, Louisiana to the union of Irving J. Bierria, Sr. and Antonia Boutney Bierria. On Friday, April 3, 2020 at 6:50pm Melvin heard God's whisper saying come unto me and with no hesitation he ended his journey here on earth to begin his journey to his heavenly home.



He was a student of Joseph S. Clark Sr, High School. In his 11th grade year he left to join the United States Marine Corp and served in the Vietnam War. After the war he returned to Joseph S. Clark to finish his education. Melvin was united in Holy Matrimony on February 4, 1977 to Beverly Laga and they have been inseparable since.

Melvin was a faithful and active member of St. Mary's of the Angel Catholic Church where he was a servant on the Men's Board and delivered commodities to the elderly and volunteered wherever he was need. He loved spending time with family and friends especially his granddaughter whom he called "his Boss." Melvin's love for his family caused him to leave no stone unturned in providing for his family. To know him was to love him.

Warren Turner

It is with heavy heart that I report the passing of Warren Turner. Warren's wife, Janet reported that he passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 with his family surrounding him and that he had fought the good fight.

As most of you know, Warren had been ill for over a year and had several hospital stays. Warren spent over 30 years at SRRC and he really looked forward to getting back to the job. Janet stated that there will be no service and to please keep their family in your prayer's.



Recent SRRC Publications

Submitted by: Suhad Wojkowski

Full text pdfs of SRRC publications are available in the Eprints database via “Library” link on the SRRC Intranet page: <http://nola.srrc.usda.gov:8000/srrcmenf.htm>

Click on the article’s title below to launch the pdf from Eprints.

Adhikari, Achyut and Parraga Estrada, Katheryn J. and Chhetri, Vijay S. and James, Marlene and Fontenot, Kathryn and Beaulieu, John C. (2020) [*Evaluation of Ultraviolet \(UV-C\) Light Treatment for Microbial Inactivation in Agricultural Waters With Different Levels of Turbidity.*](#) Food Science & Nutrition, 8. pp. 1237-1243.

Beaulieu, John C. and Lloyd, Steven W. and Obando-Ulloa, Javier M. (2020) [*Not-From-Concentrate Pilot Plant ‘Wonderful’ Cultivar Pomegranate Juice Changes: Quality.*](#) Food Chemistry, 318 (126453). pp. 1-10.

Beaulieu, John C. and Reed, Shawndrika (2019) [*Green Technologies Applied to Novel Sprouted Long-Grain Brown Rice Beverage Formulations.*](#) In: 47th UJNR, United States-Japan Cooperative Program in Natural Resources, Food and Agriculture Panel Meeting., December 2-6, 2018., Orlando, FL.

Beaulieu, John C. and Reed, Shawndrika and Obando-Ulloa, Javier M. and McClung, Anna M. (2020) [*Green Processing Protocol for Germinating and Wet Milling Brown Rice for Beverage Formulations: Sprouting, Milling and Gelatinization Effects.*](#) Food Science & Nutrition pp. 1-10.

Cheng, H.N. and Girolami, Gregory S. (2020) [*H. S. Gutowsky and the Use of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance in Chemistry.*](#) In: Pioneers of Magnetic Resonance. ACS Symposium Series. volume 1349. American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. pp. 21-31.

Hatami, Mohsen and Kalantari, Siamak and Soltani, Forouzandeh and Beaulieu, John C. (2019) [*Storability, Quality Changes, and General Postharvest Behavior of Dudaim Melon Harvested at Two Maturity Stages.*](#) HortTechnology, 29 (3). pp. 241-250.

Lima, Isabel M. and White, Paul (2019) [*Sugarcane-Bagasse and Leaf-Residue Biochars as Soil Amendments for Increased Sugar and Cane Yields.*](#) Proceedings of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, 30. pp. 844-850.

Raruang, Yenjit and Omolehin, Olanike and Hu, Dongfang and Wei, Qijian and Han, Zhu-Qiang and Rajasekaran, Kanniah and Cary, Jeffrey W. and Wang, Kan and Chen, Zhi-Yuan (2020) [*Host Induced Gene Silencing Targeting Aspergillus flavus aflM Reduced Aflatoxin Contamination in Transgenic Maize Under Field Conditions.*](#) Frontiers in Microbiology, 11 (754). pp. 1-15.